

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

EB-11 AID-20 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPECIAL UNGA SESSION

REF: USUN 0777

1. SECOND COMMITTEE LEVEL WEO GROUP, CHAIRED BY AMB JANKOWITSCH (AUSTRIA) MET MARCH 8 TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT OF INTER-GROUP CONSULTATIONS ON THE SPECIAL SESSION. JANKOWITSCH AND MACKENZIE (UK) SUMMED-UP THEIR IMPRESSIONS OF CONVERSATIONS ON THIS THEME THEY HAD HAD WITH AMB HOVEYDA (IRAN), I.E., (1) THE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS SHOULD BE INITIATED ASAP ON PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS; (2) THAT INTER-GROUP CONTACTS WOULD BE OPEN-ENDED.

2. MANY DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING THAT OF US, EXPRESSED STRONG VIEW THAT INTER-GROUP CONSULTATIONS MUST NOT BE TAKEN ON TONE, CONSCIOUSLY OR UNCONSCIOUSLY, OF UNCTAD'S FORMAL GROUPINGS. FURTHERMORE, US, FRENCH, CANADIANS AND OTHERS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT REPS OF WEO GROUP SHOULD NOT BE MANDATED BY THAT GROUP TO EXPRESS THE GROUP'S VIEW ON ANY ISSUE. AFTER SOME DISCUSSIONS, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE WEO CONTACT GROUP WOULD BE COMPOSED OF THE

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PRESENT MONTH'S CHAIRMAN (AUSTRIA), THE UK (LAST MONTH'S

CHAIRMAN) AND AUSTRALIA (CHAIRMAN FOR APRIL).

3. MACKENZIE REPORTED THAT AMB HOVEYDA HAD INDICATED HIS DESIRE TO HOLD AN INTER-GROUP SESSION BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR TEHRAN MARCH 13. MACKENZIE ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD INFORMALLY DISCUSSED WITH HOVEYDA A LIST OF QUESTIONS COMPOSED BY UK MISSION, WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN UP IN THE INTER-GROUP DISCUSSIONS. REPORTEDLY HOVEYDA EXPRESSED GENERAL, PERSONAL AGREEMENT WITH THE LIST. THOSE QUESTIONS ARE:

- (A) DURATION OF THE SESSION
- (B) LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION
- (C) WILL THE GENERAL DEBATE START ON 10 APRIL OR ONLY AFTER EASTER, I.E., 15TH?
- (D) DO WE NEED COMMITTEES (SECOND OR FIFTH) OR ONLY WORKING GROUPS?
- (E) SHOULD PRESIDING OFFICERS BE THE SAME AS FOR THE LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY?
- (F) CAN WE REACH A GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT ON THE HANDLING OF CREDENTIALS TO AVOID TIME-CONSUMING WRANGLES?
- (G) WHAT SHOULD THE OUTCOME OF THE ASSEMBLY BE? A GENERAL DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES? ONE OR MORE RESOLUTIONS?
- (H) SHOULD DRAFTING GROUPS BEGIN WORK BEFORE 9 APRIL?
- (I) DO WE ALL SEE THIS ASSEMBLY AS ONLY THE FIRST STEP IN A PROCESS?
- (J) WHAT ARE THE BEST CHANNELS FOR THE FOLLOW-UP WORK?

4. THE US EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE INTER-GROUP CONSULTATIONS AND WEO'S PARTICIPATION IN THEM MUST BE KEPT UNDER REVIEW, PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT TO ANY TENDENCY FOR THE MEETINGS TO VEER TOWARD SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES OR AMBASSADORIAL-LEVEL REPRESENTATION.

5. MACKENZIE TWICE STATED THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING WITH HOVEYDA THAT THE INTER-GROUP CONSULTATIONS WERE IN NO MANNER OR FORM TO RESTRICT BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS OR ANY OTHER FORM OF MULTILATERAL CONSULTATIONS. THIS KEY ISSUE WAS UNDERSTOOD AND WELCOMED BY ALL.

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6. COMMENT: HAPPILY, INTER-GROUP CONSULTATIONS APPEAR TO BE CLEARLY HEADED FORWARD VERY INFORMAL, OPEN-ENDED FORMULA. JAPANESE REP IN WEO INFORMED MISOFF THAT ASIAN GROUP WAS SCRAPPING ON ISSUE THEIR REPRESENTATION IN G-77 CONTACT GROUP AND THAT, IN HIS VIEW, ONLY POSSIBLE OUTCOME WOULD BE LARGER, LESS-FORMALLY CONSTITUTED CONSULTATIONS THAN HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN DISCUSSED. USUN WILL FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN INTER-GROUP CONTEXT.

USUN WILL BE ESPECIALLY WATCHFUL OF ANY TENDENCY TO
DISCUSS UK MISSION'S LIST OF QUESTIONS, PARTICULARLY
(G) THROUGH (J) WHICH DO IN FACT APPEAR MORE SUBSTANTIVE
THAN WOULD BE DESIRABLE AT THIS STAGE. END COMMENT.
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